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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SCAG REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES 2002 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**LOS ANGELES, CA.** – The Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has approved the 2002 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) after a 30-day period of public review and comment. The RTIP is the document that allocates funds for all major transportation projects in the six-county Southern California region.

The 2002 RTIP calls for spending nearly \$25 billion on Southland transportation projects within the next six fiscal years (2002/03 – 2007/08). It includes thousands of transportation projects, including highway and road improvements, rail and bus facilities, high occupancy vehicles (HOV) lanes, signal synchronization, intersection improvements, and other key projects throughout Southern California. Of the \$24.7 billion programmed in the RTIP, \$10.6 billion is allocated for state highway projects, \$5.5 billion for local highway improvements, and \$8.6 billion for transit improvements.

In developing the 2002 RTIP, SCAG worked closely with the county transportation commissions (i.e., Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Orange County Transportation Authority, Riverside County Transportation Commission, San Bernardino Associated Governments, etc.) and other government agencies. The county transportation commissions forwarded to SCAG a list of proposed projects for their respective counties. SCAG then prepared the regional program, and analyzed it to ensure conformity with state and federal requirements, including air quality standards.

Among the major transportation priorities included in the 2002 RTIP are:

<i>Imperial County:</i>	Development of four-lane expressways near Calexico from State Route (SR)-98 to SR-8 Freeways, near El Centro from Ross Road to SR-78; and in and near Brawley from Baughman to Mead Road.
<i>Los Angeles County:</i>	Light rail system on the Eastside Transit corridor; Rapid bus in the mid-city/Wilshire; San Fernando Valley East-West transit corridor; bus and rail preventive maintenance.

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<i>Orange County:</i>	New mixed flow and HOV lanes on I-5 Freeway; HOV lanes on SR-22 Freeway; Crown Valley widening; and improvements at I-5 Freeway Camino Capistrano choke point.
<i>Ventura County:</i>	SR-101 Freeway existing auxiliary lane extension in both directions between Ventura County line and Hampshire Road; SR-23 Freeway widening from four to six lanes in Thousand Oaks and Moorpark from SR-118 to SR-101; improvements to SR-23/SR-101 interchange.
<i>Riverside County:</i>	New Metrolink station at N. Main in Corona; HOV lanes on the SR-60 Freeway; new interchange on the SR-91 Freeway at Green River.
<i>San Bernardino County:</i>	New HOV lanes on the I-215, I-210, and SR-30 Freeways; widening of the I-15 Freeway; and development of a new east/west high desert expressway from the I-15 to the Los Angeles County line.

The 2002 RTIP will now be submitted to CalTrans and the Federal Highway Administration for approval and to certify that it meets federal air quality conformity requirements. Once these agencies approve the program, the project funding will be formally authorized.

During the past three decades, SCAG has evolved into the largest regional planning organization in the United States, functioning as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for six counties: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside and Ventura. The Southern California region encompasses a population exceeding 16 million people in an area of more than 38,000 square miles. As the designated MPO, SCAG is required by the federal government to develop regional plans for transportation, growth management, hazardous waste management, water resources, and air quality. For more information about the work of the Southern California Association of Governments, visit the SCAG website at [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov).

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